The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of labor's affairs bearing on the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 26, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

WHOLE NO. 1549 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1940 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 30, NO. 51

FACING *the* FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

Perhaps no one in the country, with the exception of her husband, gets around more and gets into the newspapers as often as Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt. As the First Lady of the land, as a columnist, as a member of a great many organizations (including a CIO union), as an intelligent and warm-hearted woman interested in numerous causes and individuals, Mrs. Roosevelt manages to keep pretty busy. It is no wonder, then, that through haste and superficial knowledge, she sometimes, unintentionally, to make a mistake in judgment which she, herself, would be the first to wish corrected if the facts were fully presented to her.

It is, therefore, in a wholly friendly spirit that we beg leave to differ with her off-hand denunciation of high initiation fees required by the Washington, D. C., local of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers as a "racket."

In this case, Mrs. Roosevelt's sympathies were enlisted by the plight of a migrant worker who sought a job as an electrical worker on an Army construction project at Fort Belvoir, Va., and was told he would have to be a member of the union before he could get work. He testified he "lost interest" when he was informed the initiation fee was $300.

The Other Side of the Story

Now, with no more information than this a lot of people would be inclined to agree with Mrs. Roosevelt. But there is another side to the story that perhaps Mrs. Roosevelt and most people don't know. So we propose to tell it here.

In the first place, the only reason this migrant worker sought to join the union was because he couldn't get the job otherwise. If he had enough skill as an electrical worker to qualify to become a member, the probabilities are that he acquired his skill working in such shops as a non-union man because he cited no record of previous union affiliation. Is it, then, fair to the men who have worked and suffered and sacrificed to build a union and make it strong to invite into their ranks scot-free a man who not only contributed nothing to help the union but even worked against it in non-union shops?

In the second place, what assurance has the union that this migrant worker, especially with his background, will remain in the union after the project on which he sought a job is completed? Certainly, he showed no previous appreciation of the value of being a union member! How can an organization function and exist when its membership is fluid? How can it maintain itself when members jump in when a certain job appeals to them and then jump out again? It seems to us that this is the perfect example of how necessary it is that a new member of a union have a stake and an interest in his union and how it will be encouraged to preserve and protect.

In the third place, how does the size of the initiation fee compare with the benefits and advantages derived from membership? Consider, this particular migrant, when he "lost interest" in the union, took a job in Washington at $30 a week, according to the newspapers. But he would have received $70 a week or more under union rates on the union job. Isn't that difference worth the fee? And that is not all. As a member of the union, he would have been entitled to life insurance, old age disability compensation and other important benefits. Also, the records show that the I.B.E.W. has paid out to its members more than a million dollars in such benefits. Does that mean nothing? And how about job opportunities on other projects which the union makes available to its members?

Mrs. Roosevelt Defends Labor

Finally, we wish to dispel the impression that high initiation fees are established as a source of revenue. Nothing could be further from the truth. The chief reason for initiation fees is to keep new members out when there are not enough jobs to go around for the members already in. The moment the supply of jobs in a trade exceeds the demand for union workers, the initiation fees drop. On this particular project, for instance, the union has a forty-eight hour closed shop. If it cannot supply qualified men to work within forty-eight hours of the call, the contractor may hire anyone he pleases. Surely, no union is going to maintain an artificial barrier of high initiation fees at the expense of losing its contracts!

We are anxious to bring these facts to the attention of Mrs. Roosevelt and to the public in order to correct any mistaken impressions. And we would like to suggest to Mrs. Roosevelt that there is in the Cabinet a man well-qualified to give her any further information she may wish. We refer to Dan W. Tracy, Assistant Secretary of Labor and esteemed former President of the I.B.E.W.

Lest we close on a critical note, we should like to call attention to another recent expression of Mrs. Roosevelt which we consider highly sensible and worth the attention of everybody. In her column of December 7, Mrs. Roosevelt took Rear Admiral Spear to task for his attempt to alibi defense production lags on the Walsh-Healey Act and other labor-protective legislation.

Much more eloquently than we could say it, Mrs. Roosevelt reminded her readers that these laws were adopted by overwhelming majorities and that lawmakers thought they were necessary and that they should not be changed except by Congress. She adds:

"I cannot believe, therefore, that the tendency has been so far to say that labor must make sacrifices of wages and hours because of the necessities of national defense.

"I have yet to see anywhere a statement that manufacturers and business concerns and the general public, through investment returns, shall make such same type of sacrifice for national defense, by cutting profits and reducing the salaries of their executives."

That is what we call true talk.

Citrine Appeals For U. S. Help So Britain May End Hitler Menace

Eloquent Address Given At AFL Dinner Attended By Many Notables

Washington, D. C.—Sir Walter Citrine, general secretary of the British Trades Union Congress, appealed to the American people to give unstinted aid to Great Britain as the menace of Hitlerism can be wiped out.

Speaking at a dinner given for him by the American Federation of Labor here and attended by Justices of the Supreme Court, Cabinet members, high ranking Government officials, members of Congress and many labor leaders, Citrine evoked an enthusiastic response.

With fervent eloquence he described the horrors which the British people are undergoing today from the Nazi Blitzkrieg but he insisted they were willing to endure even worse destruction than suffered in such dire conditions which a Hitler victory would inevitably bring.

He declared that the British are conducting themselves with cheerfulness, courage and confidence. His confidence based largely on the conviction that the American people will not hesitate to assist them to the fullest extent.

In presenting the guest of honor to the gathering, President William Green of the American Federation of Labor said that the overwhelming sentiment of America are in favor of extending Great Britain such assistance. He said:

"We know that if Britain wins, we win. We know if Britain succeeds, trade unions will survive. We know that labor will be free in Great Britain, free in America. And because we know these things, we of labor favor the extension to Great Britain of all material help that this country can give here in her hour of need."

Citrine, who arrived from London only a few weeks ago to attend the 60th annual convention of the American Federation of Labor, as fraternal delegate and who plans to return to the scene of conflict after a cross-country tour through the United States and Canada, gave this poignant picture of the psychology of his countrymen:

"We intend to go on as we have begun, unflinching in our determination to prosecute this struggle to a conclusion.

"We must expect, in the nature of things, that the bombing of our country will continue for some time. Well, we are going to try to endure it.

"Why do we endure it? Is it because we have become such a militaristic way accustomed to our environment? Is it that we have lost the sensibility of men and that we are no longer sensible men but some sort of Underground Railway Station in developing? No. We go on because we are animated by the sure conviction that this country is worth preserving. We go on because we are animated by the sure conviction that the future of the world will be a better, more wise, than any possible destruction can be.

"I can say for the mass of British people that, look among them where you will, among the poorest people—people whose homes have been practically nothing—and you will find a cheerfulness, you will find a calm, you will find a sort of quiet courage which is animated by confidence.

"Now in whom does that confidence repose? It reposes in you. It reposes in you because no British man or woman believes that finally, when you understand how up against it we are, you can hesitate in the assistance you will give to us."

Citrine did not paint an entirely gloomy picture. He declared that the British airmen are dealing a terrific destruction in Germany, especially in industrial sectors, than the Nazis are inflicting on Great Britain. But he conceded that constant bombing has cut down the production of British munitions plants and that assistance from this country is more urgently needed than ever before.

In discussing the concessions made by British labor because of the war, Citrine emphasized that the trade unions have acted voluntarily in all instances and that the Government never makes a move affecting organized labor without consulting its representatives. In fact, he pointed out that labor is heavily represented in the British government itself and, therefore, complete accord exists in policy and splendid cooperation results in the execution of policies.

Francis P. Fenton was in charge of arrangements for the dinner. Robert J. Watt, international representative of the A. F. of L., was toastmaster. Among the distinguished guests seated at the head table were Secretary of Treasury, George Meany; Associate Justices Hugo Black and Stanley Reed of the United States Supreme Court; Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins; Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones; Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard; Harry Hawkins of the Department of State, representing Secretary of State Hull; Chairman Harry A. Millis, Dr. William Leiserson and Edwin S. Smith of the National Labor Relations Board; Administrator Nathan Straus of the U. S. Housing Authority; Assistant Secretary of Labor Dan W. Tracy; Director James J. McEntee of the Civilian Conservation Corps; I. M. Ornburn, Secretary of the Union Label Trades Department of the A. F. of L.; Paul Scharrenberg, President of the Metal Trades Department of the A. F. of L.; Thomas E. Burke, Secretary, United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters; Joseph P. Hegerty, Secretary, International Brotherhood of Bookbinders; James Wilson, Labor Counselor of the International Labor Office; Edward J. Gainor, President of the National Association of Letter Carriers; Leo E. George, President of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks; Joseph P. Ansell, President, International Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers Union; Felix H. Knight, President, the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen; William J. Spencer, President, International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Asbestos Workers; Major George L. Berry, President, International Printing Pressmen's and Assistants' Union; Harvey W. Brown, President, International Association of Machinists; Elmer E. Milliman, President, Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes; James Bennett, President, Railway Mail Carriers.

Laws Designed to Outlaw Strikes Assailed by President Harrison

New York, N. Y.—George H. Harrison, President of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, replied sharply to attacks upon organized labor and vigorously defended labor's cooperation in the defense program in an address before the Economic Club of New York.

Mr. Harrison gave so convincing an answer to critics of labor and to the labor strikes that even the predominantly business membership of the employers struck an ovation to him.

"What does a manufacturer engaged in production of materials useful for national defense do when he gets an inquiry from the government for specific articles or kinds of supplies?" Mr. Harrison asked.

"He begins to bargain with the government, and that is what he has to get. If he is unable to reach an agreement, there is, naturally, no contract, no order and no work.

"Well, now, is there anybody here who honestly thinks that with the long unpatriotic and striking against the government because he has been unable to reach a bargain on the price?

"Compare that with the man who works. He is unable to strike a bargain on the things he wants for the labor that goes into the articles he produces. If then he says he does not care to give his labor at the employer's price, is he striking against the defense program? Is he, therefore, an unpatriotic citizen? Of course, not."

Harrison pointed out further that compulsory arbitration "works both ways." He asked how many business men present would care to submit their cases to government boards in view of the present tendencies of the "New Deal."

"I come from the railroad industry, where we haven't had a strike for over a long time," he said, "I declared. "But we don't have any such prohibition against exercising our rights as human beings.

"I think the answer to the situation, from the standpoint of protection of essential defense materials, is to advance the conference table idea to find a way for our differences, in the light of national needs."

Anti-Trust Drive Against Unions Branded "Fascism" In Supreme Court

Washington, D. C.—Assistant Attorney General Thurman Arnold's campaign of prosecuting labor unions under the anti-trust laws was branded as "fascism" at a hearing before the United States Supreme Court.

Thomas D. Thacher, counsel for the Southern District of New York, appearing as counsel for the United States Department of Justice, charged that Arnold's assumption of the right to prosecute strikes as illegal is "fascism—pure and simple."

The case before the court involved an old jurisdictional dispute in St. Louis between the carpenters and the machine woodworkers' unions. The latter, Arnold obtained an indictment against William L. Hutcheson, president of the carpenters, as an out-growth of the strike, but the indictment was thrown out of court when you will find a sort of quiet courage which is animated by confidence.

"Now in whom does that confidence repose? It reposes in you. It reposes in you because no British man or woman believes that finally, when you understand how up against it we are, you can hesitate in the assistance you will give to us."

Citrine did not paint an entirely gloomy picture. He declared that the British airmen are dealing a terrific destruction in Germany, especially in industrial sectors, than the Nazis are inflicting on Great Britain. But he conceded that constant bombing has cut down the production of British munitions plants and that assistance from this country is more urgently needed than ever before.

In discussing the concessions made by British labor because of the war, Citrine emphasized that the trade unions have acted voluntarily in all instances and that the Government never makes a move affecting organized labor without consulting its representatives. In fact, he pointed out that labor is heavily represented in the British government itself and, therefore, complete accord exists in policy and splendid cooperation results in the execution of policies.

Francis P. Fenton was in charge of arrangements for the dinner. Robert J. Watt, international representative of the A. F. of L., was toastmaster. Among the distinguished guests seated at the head table were Secretary of Treasury, George Meany; Associate Justices Hugo Black and Stanley Reed of the United States Supreme Court; Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins; Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones; Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard; Harry Hawkins of the Department of State, representing Secretary of State Hull; Chairman Harry A. Millis, Dr. William Leiserson and Edwin S. Smith of the National Labor Relations Board; Administrator Nathan Straus of the U. S. Housing Authority; Assistant Secretary of Labor Dan W. Tracy; Director James J. McEntee of the Civilian Conservation Corps; I. M. Ornburn, Secretary of the Union Label Trades Department of the A. F. of L.; Paul Scharrenberg, President of the Metal Trades Department of the A. F. of L.; Thomas E. Burke, Secretary, United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters; Joseph P. Hegerty, Secretary, International Brotherhood of Bookbinders; James Wilson, Labor Counselor of the International Labor Office; Edward J. Gainor, President of the National Association of Letter Carriers; Leo E. George, President of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks; Joseph P. Ansell, President, International Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers Union; Felix H. Knight, President, the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen; William J. Spencer, President, International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Asbestos Workers; Major George L. Berry, President, International Printing Pressmen's and Assistants' Union; Harvey W. Brown, President, International Association of Machinists; Elmer E. Milliman, President, Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes; James Bennett, President, Railway Mail Carriers.

Newspaper Orders Reporter to Quit "Neutral Bed" In Picketed Hotel

Washington, D. C.—One of the most interesting labor stories ever published in a newspaper appeared in "P.M.," the novel New York Tabloid on Dec. 11. In the article, Lou Wedemar, a reporter on the city staff of the paper, described his experience in the Stacy-Trent Hotel in Trenton, N. J., which was being picketed by the Hotel and Restaurant Employees' Union, Local 741.

Wedemar assigned to cover the induction of new draftees into Army life at Fort Dix, made the Stacy-Trent his headquarters. He says that he has frequently stayed at this hotel in the past while covering other stories and has always received excellent service that he regards it almost as "home."

He observed the pickets but paid no particular attention to them and, being unschooled in union principles, he did not hesitate to walk through the picket lines. However, one day he encountered a fire-eyed, "red-hot" union girl who formerly served him as a waitress in the hotel dining room. She told him she and other employes had been out on strike since last July and her little face assumed a pathetic background of Christmas decorations in the store told him another story. He wrote:

"Now I like a nice comfortable life, not bothering anyone any more than is necessary, helping anyone I can help without too much unpleasantness to myself. I didn't want to hear about the blankety-blank strike. And yet I couldn't forget that this face."

So Reporter Wedemar inquired at the hotel headquarters and he was told that the hotel employes were striking because they received salaries from $10 to $40 a month and thought they should get more because other hotels in town paid more. For part-time duties, they had to work from 54 to 72 hours a week. As if this were not enough, an efficiency expert arrived last July and began to cut wages even lower and to discharge employes. The hotel management refused to arbitrate the strike.

All this disturbed Reporter Wedemar somewhat, especially because the hotel management had brought their case with him. But he decided that as a reporter he would have to be "neutral," so he sent the factual story to his office and went back to the hotel, through the picket line. He "got to sleep in my comfortable, neutral bed."

But the story didn't end there. A postscript signed by G. H. Lyon, Managing Editor, added a note:

"He was dead wrong in going back to the Stacy-Trent in which, under the circumstances, there is no such thing as a 'neutral bed.' He has been directed to resign himself."

The story concluded with the following notice:

"Hotel Bulletin:—Mr. Wedemar checked in at the Hotel Hildebrecht in Trenton at 1:55 p. m. yesterday."

FRED WALKER APPOINTED TO D. OF C. WAGE BOARD

Washington, D. C.—Fred S. Walker, manager of The Trades Unionist, official organ of the Central Labor Union, has been appointed labor representative on the District of Columbia Minimum Wage Board, which has jurisdiction over the working hours and wages of approximately 50,000 Washington workers. Before Mr. Walker was secretary of the Columbia Typographical Union for eleven years and also a member of the Board of the Union Printers' Home in Colorado Springs. The Central Labor Union recommended Mr. Walker's appointment to the three-member board for the three-year term, the other two members representing, respectively, employers and the public.

COMPENSATION PROVIDED FOR CANADIAN JOBLESS

Ottawa, Can.—An annual fund of $41,610,000 will be provided by compensation for the jobless in Canada under the nation-wide scheme of unemployment insurance enacted last summer and soon to come into operation.

News Briefs

LUBIN DENIES STRIKES ARE HOLDING UP DEFENSE

Washington, D. C.—Flat denial that strikes are interfering with the national defense program was given in a Congressional committee by Isador Lubin, Director of Statistics for the Department of Labor.

Dr. Lubin testified there have been fewer strikes in the past few months than during the same five months in 1916, which was a comparable prewar-preparedness period. He added:

"Indeed, there have been practically no strikes of any significance recently and both labor and employers are to be congratulated on this. We would have been appalled about this 'strike problem' except for one strike in a comparatively small airplane factory in California."

He was referring to the CIO strike in Vultee Aircraft.

CLEVELAND LABOR BODY ACTS TO PURGE REDS

Cleveland, O.—The Cleveland Federated Council of Labor has acted on a resolution to ban Communists from all meetings of the central body. Thomas A. Lenehan, secretary-business representative, told delegates.

The proposed resolution would empower the CFL to refuse to seat as delegate any union member or officer who is found guilty of having Communistic leanings, Lenehan said.

"We won't have the taint of Communism in the body," Lenehan declared. "If we find any, or if any other delegate discovers a member or officers who has Communistic beliefs or is a known Communist, we will expel him from the body. That is the same Federation of Labor's policy as adopted at the New Orleans convention."

W. C. ROBERTS IS DEAD; VETERAN AFL OFFICIAL

Chicago, Ill.—William C. Roberts, for many years chairman of the American Federation of Labor Legislative Committee until his resignation from that position in August, 1939, died at his home here on December 12. He was 74 years old.

Mr. Roberts joined the Fore Wayne, Indiana, Typographical Union in 1875. In 1890 he became a labor reporter on a Chicago evening daily and served in this capacity on the Chicago American and the Chicago Examiner from 1900 to 1906, when the late Samuel Gompers engaged him to organize the American Federation of Labor History, Encyclopedia and Reference Bureau, a monumental two-volume document covering the official proceedings of the American Federation of Labor conventions from 1881 to 1924. At the request of Gompers and with President Gompers made Mr. Roberts chairman of the American Federation of Labor Legislative Committee, in which capacity he served until his retirement. He returned to his home in Chicago.

Following this assignment he completed the A. F. of L. Encyclopedia from 1925 to 1939.

In 1929 and 1934 he was traveling secretary to President Gompers. During that period he traveled 25,000 miles with Gompers and was with him when he died in San Antonio, Texas, December 13, 1924.

WOLL ASKS SUPPORT FOR LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

New York, N. Y.—Matthew Woll, Vice-President of the A. F. of L., called upon organized labor to support the League for Human Rights, Freedom and Democracy, by forming local branches throughout the country to fight intolerance.

The League seeks to become the spearhead of the labor defense profits "persistent campaign to defend democracy," Woll declared, and our democratic order against the subversive attacks of the Fifth Column," he said. The League has, to date, approximately one thousand city and State labor bodies and trade unions affiliated with it, according to Woll, who briefly enumerating the fundamental principles and standards of democracy which have been destroyed by the totalitarians, and outlined a series of steps leading to the formation of a local branch of the League by the Central Labor Bodies.

The League for Human Rights, Freedom and Democracy was organized in 1938 by some of labor's most important leaders and organizations as a protest against the revolting barbarism and anti-semitic excesses of the totalitarian regimes. Honorary officers are: William Green, Honorary President; Matthew Woll, President; David Dubinsky, Vice-President; Edward McGrady, Secretary; the Honorable Jeremiah T. Mahoney, Treasurer.

be applied in such disputes if they involved restraints of trade.

"So you think the thing to do, instead of going before Mr. Labor Board, is to indict them all under the Sherman Act?" Justice Frankfurter asked.

"Not necessarily," was the best response Arnold could summon.

AFL for National Defense First, Green Replies to Labor Critics

Challenges Anyone to Match Federation's Record of Support for Program

Washington, D. C.—President William Green served notice on the entire nation in a radio address over the Columbia Broadcasting system that the American Federation of Labor stands ready to do any thing in reason to speed the national defense program.

He declared that the great army of workers enrolled in the A. F. of L. already are giving service in industry "in the like of which this country never before has seen." He insisted that the leaders of the A. F. of L. unions have measured up to their obligations and the demands of the national emergency "in a way that warms my heart." Then he added:

"I challenge anyone to point to a single request for help and cooperation from the Government of the United States which has not received an instant and favorable response from the leaders of the American Federation of Labor.

"I challenge anyone to point to a single strike where any responsible official of the American Federation of Labor has given aid, comfort, encouragement or sabotage the national defense program for selfish reasons, for organizational advantage or for anti-American, political ends."

While vigorously upholding labor's right to strike, Mr. Green declared that in the defense emergency "it become our solemn duty to avoid strikes and the prevent interruptions of work." He said:

"The national defense policy of the American Federation of Labor, as determined by its recent 60th annual convention, is clear-cut and definite. We stand four-square in support of the national defense program. We make concessions to avoid strikes, not only for trivial reasons, but for scarcely any cause; unless particular expenditure become unbearably intolerable. We are ready to make any reasonable and necessary sacrifices, the sacrifices that the Government may be forced to call upon all citizens to make in the course of events. We say to our Government—'Show us what you want us to do and we will do it.' If any sacrifices are necessary, show us why they are necessary and we will cheerfully agree to them. We are with you to the finish. That is the policy of the American Federation of Labor."

Outlining some of the constructive things A. F. of L. organizations already have done to help the defense program, Mr. Green said:

"Our unions in the building construction and metal trades fields have sought out and mobilized thousands of skilled, unemployed mechanics who have come from other sections of the country, and have helped to move hundreds of thousands of skilled workers from their home communities to production centers where they were needed to construct army barracks, ships, airplanes and national defense supplies.

"Our union leaders in the past few months have helped to settle many industrial disputes by peaceful means around the conference table. They have accepted compromises, and they have deferred legitimate demands because they, as well as everyone else, were anxious to avoid interruptions of work. They have widely enforced a system of strict self-disciplining local unions to avoid provocations and disputes. They have pledged themselves to exhaust every possible avenue of mediation and conciliation before even considering strikes."

The record and the policies of the A. F. of L. merit praise rather than criticism, Mr. Green emphasized. He assailed those members of Congress, industrialists and others who have grown tired of anti-labor agitation for "trying to develop class hatred at a time when we must be a united people." He reminded them also of the public tributes paid to the A. F. of L. at its recent convention by Secretary of War Stimson.

"Your response to the country's needs has been generous and unselfish. It merits the warmest commendation from the War Department," Secretary Stimson declared.

The A. F. of L. does not have to "sell" itself to the urgent necessity of national defense because it realized the danger from totalitarianism long before any other group in the nation, Mr. Green pointed out. Further emphasizing the patriotism of the A. F. of L., he said:

"We have no left-wing or right-wing in the American Federation of Labor. We have no Communists, Nazis or Fascists in positions of influence in our movement. We have among our millions of members and among our leaders a fine and representative cross-section of American citizens who are ready to lay down their lives, if necessary, in defense of their country."

Mr. Green concluded:

"We of labor are fortunate, and the entire nation is fortunate, in that the present Government of the United States understands and sympathizes with the needs and aims of American workers. Our Government knows that it is not only essential to have our soldiers and sailors well-fed, well-clothed, well-housed and well-equipped but that it is even more essential to have the nation's first line of defense—its great army of workers—well-fed, well-housed, well-clothed and in good moral and physical health."

WALSH-HEALY HEAD RAPS NAVY CRITIC

Admiral Spear's Charges Exposed By Administrator Walling

Washington, D. C.—Administrator L. S. Walling of the Walsh-Healey Act Division politely but firmly rebuked Rear Admiral Ray Spear in an official letter for his unwarranted charge that the provisions of the Walsh-Healey Act were hampering speedy completion of the national defense program.

Giving the official record of all contacts between his division and the Navy Department, Administrator Walling pointed conclusively that such delays as did occur were due to procedural bureaucratic procedure in the Navy Department.

Out of the hundreds of millions of dollars worth of steel contracts awarded by the Government since the wage determination for the steel industry was established by the Walsh-Healey division, Walling declared, only a single order for a mere 37 tons of forged armor-plate actually gave any difficulties. After citing other instances, he added:

"It would appear that there cannot be serious obstacles to procurement in the steel industry if nearly one-third of the total value of contracts awarded since enactment of the statute have been made in the six-months' period since the wage determination became effective.

"In view of the fact that only four requests for exemption because of the absence of bidders in accordance with the Act have been filed in a period of 18 years and in only one of these cases was there any actual bar to bidding, I am wondering whether there are any difficulties so far as the Navy Department is concerned with which I am not familiar. I assure you that in this series of contracts of world crisis when the Nation is bending every effort to speed up the defense program I am more than anxious to have you take up promptly with me any difficulties you may have because of the Public Contracts Act so that they can be quickly removed."

LABOR REPRESENTATION ON DEFENSE UNITS ASKED

Lakeland, Fla.—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, demanded in an address before the Quadrennial Convention of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners that labor "be taken more largely into the confidence of the government" in the national defense program.

"We maintain," he asserted, "that labor should be represented on every board created by this government for the purpose of our defense program. For some reason or other, I know not what, labor has been given little or no representation in many of these boards."

Citing Britain as an example, Mr. Green said that, at the start of the war, labor was without representation in the government, but as the need and gravity of the situation increased, labor leaders were brought in to win the war.

"If in Great Britain, then why not in America?" he demanded.

Delegates to the convention remonstrated William L. Hutcheson as president for another four-year term.

Hutcheson has served for twenty years. Nomination is tantamount to election. Returned to office, Hutcheson were all other general officers. There was no opposition.

BRIDGES' DEPORTATION PREDICTED BY HOOVER

Miami Beach, Fla.—Director J. Edgar Hoover of the Federal Bureau of Investigation said he believed "evidence we have submitted to the Department of Justice is sufficient to justify deportation of Harry Bridges," West Coast CIO leader.

Hoover said the FBI had sent a 2,500-page report to Attorney General Robert H. Jackson. "This report confirms that Bridges is a Communist and that the Communist party advocates overthrow of the United States Government," Hoover asserted.